

Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 09/862,591

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 and 26-57 are pending in the application, of which claims 22-24 and 26-46 have been withdrawn from consideration as being drawn to a non-elected invention. By this Amendment, Applicant has canceled claims 22-24 and 26-46, without prejudice or disclaimer.

Accordingly, claims 1-21 and 47-57 have been examined in the present Office Action. The Examiner has indicated that claims 1-10 and 47-57 are allowed, and claims 11-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

The Examiner has rejected claims 11-21 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. In particular, the Examiner maintains that the term “adjacent” in claim 11 renders the terminology unclear. Since claims 12-21 are dependent upon claim 11, such claims are also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

The Examiner suggests amending claim 11 to recite similar wording of either claim 1 or claim 47. Accordingly, in order to clarify the claim language, Applicant has amended claim 11 in a similar manner as claim 47. Applicant submits that such amendment is not made in view of the prior art and does not narrow the scope of the claim. In view of the amendment, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

Allowable Subject Matter

As stated above, the Examiner has indicated that claims 1-10 and 47-57 are allowed. In view of the amendment to claim 11, Applicant submits that claims 1-21 and 47-57 are now in condition for allowance.

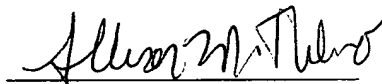
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Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



Allison M. Tulino
Registration No. 48,294

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE
23373
CUSTOMER NUMBER

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